



2014 March 6

Chairman Thomas Wheeler  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner AjitPai  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly  
Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW 20024  
Washington, DC

**Re: Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Experiments  
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners and Mr. Chambers,

This letter is to express West Feliciana Parish's interest in participating in the Rural Broadband Experiments announced at the FCC Open Meeting on January 30. While we do not have a project to propose, we take this opportunity to document our parish's need for high-speed Internet service. We respectfully ask the Federal Communications Commission to consider our area's need when making decisions regarding the Rural Broadband Trials and any future initiatives related to the Connect America Fund.

West Feliciana Parish's 400 square miles are located on the southernmost portion of the Mississippi River not bound by levees. Sandy creeks, bayous, and bluffs scattered throughout rolling hills make it a truly unique part of Louisiana. The area is also home to several historical sites and tourism is an important element of our economy. Natural resources include oil, gas, electrical energy, sand & gravel. West Feliciana Parish Schools consistently rank among the best in the state and the community is known for its excellent quality of life. Our close proximity to Baton Rouge allows many residents to enjoy these benefits of living in West Feliciana while working in nearby Baton Rouge.

Like many rural communities, the biggest challenge we face is a declining tax base. West Feliciana is open for business and has a planned growth model that allows for economic development without adversely affecting our quality of life and the parish has ample affordable land available for development. The lack of available broadband service continues to be a deal-breaker for prospective residents. Without access to adequate broadband, businesses cannot consider basing their operations in West Feliciana.



Participation of these three eligible census tract subdivisions in the Rural Broadband Experiments would broaden the coverage area throughout the entire parish. It would also ensure that the cost to rural residential subscribers would be affordable with an approximate monthly cost around \$50.00.

The following is a list of our community's anchor institutions.

Bains Lower Elementary  
West Feliciana Junior High School  
West Feliciana Parish Library  
Governmental Building  
West Feliciana Sports Park

Bains Upper Elementary  
West Feliciana Senior High School  
West Feliciana Parish Hospital  
Parish Courthouse and Annex  
Independence Community Center

Thank you for considering our Expression of Interest in your decisions about the amount of funding that will be allocated in the Rural Broadband Experiments. We commend the FCC in this effort to connect rural communities and are ready to help you close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

Kevin Couhig  
President  
West Feliciana Parish